

not proceed from a heart where only holy thoughts were harbored. Jesus gave us also by his own example a lesson in communion with God. How often we read that he went apart to pray. Ah, the prayerful hour is an armour to the soul.

Sergeantsville, N. J.

Our communion on the 26th was well attended, taking into consideration that fact that it was very rainy weather at that time. Notwithstanding this, several drove in from one mission point some eight miles from here to attend the meeting. One faithful sister, in company with a small boy, drove the round trip thru rain and mud. She is one among the three members I found at that point when I took charge there. "Where are the other members that were once there?" asked one recently. I said, "Ask of the winds that round my pathway roar."

We now have some 15 good, active members and a Sunday school of 45 scholars. These will make the future church at Calvary.

Our work at this place is moving along slow, but we think sure. Our past experience has taught us that it pays in the end to be careful how we do our part in new fields of labor. We baptized five on the 23rd, five on the 25th, two on the 26th and received one from the G. B's. One of the number had been a faithful member of the Baptist church for a number of years, but finally saw that a whole Bible was better than a mutilated gospel. This made a total of 13 additions recently and more to follow.

All New Jersey needs is to have the people believe God; then teach them that He and His Christ meant what they said. Hoping to report better work in the future, we solicit your prayer.

E. H. SMITH.

Announcement

Communion services at North Liberty Saturday evening, June 9. Service Friday evening. We invite all who can to take part in the service with us. La Paz and Tyner come.

A. S. MENAUGH.

The Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia Conference

The conference of the Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia churches is ended. While the final results can never be estimated in this world, we may, at least, review in our minds some of the immediately tangible and striking effects.

First, those who were absent missed a great spiritual and social feast and uplift. Some of the sessions indeed were unique in the feeling of harmony and enthusiasm which seemed to carry the meeting off its feet. So great was this feeling that the delegates of the entertaining congregation were unanimous in an invitation for the conference to return next year, and this invitation was accepted. God willing, the conference will meet at St. James church in May, 1902. And the members of St. James congregation hereby give notice that they want at least fifty visitors next year and from that number on up.

If there is any grievance it is on the part of those who had no visitors to entertain. We are delighted and look forward to next year with great anticipation.

Among the many things we remember with great pleasure the presence of the Editor of the EVANGELIST stands out very prominently. To many of us he had been a stranger known only in his official and impersonal character. A closer look at him was extremely gratifying and satisfying and we expect him next year.

All the interests of the general church received ample and enthusiastic support and some one else

will probably tell of it. The weather was unpropitious, but in spite of this and the comparatively small attendance in consequence thereof the meeting of the conference may be fairly recorded as a great success.

V. M. REICHARD.

SERVICE

W. L. MCDOWELL, D. D.

The secret of the universal homage paid to the life and character of Jesus of Nazareth is not far to seek. It lies revealed in the word "service." One man may feel the attractiveness that inheres in His unstained purity. Another is drawn irresistibly by His gracious compassion. Another confesses to the magnetism of His self-forgetfulness. But we comprehend the fulness of His power to elicit the homage of men when we say that in every sense and in the completest degree He made Himself man's servant. In Him humanity's ideal life is perfectly realized, and, becoming the servant of all, He has become the Lord of all.

Thus He has set before us once and for evermore the true conception of life. Worldly wisdom says to us, "You are in this world for what you can get out of it." Jesus Christ says, "You are in this world for what you can put into it." In its moments of clearest vision the world, forgetting its own word, bows to His, and carves highest in its temple of fame the names of those who have really served.

We are, then, to have this word "service" writ large before our mind's eye. The summons that lies in it we must ever hear. Every temptation to forget it must be vanquished. Nobility of character can be attained only as service becomes the keynote of our life.

Service is to be rendered in and thru the performance of our specific tasks. Each of us has his vocation. We are serving our fellow-men when we do the work that belongs thereto faithfully. Every faithful life, no matter how limited its sphere or how obscure its work, is really serving. The dull routine faithfully gone thru, the dreary drudgery faithfully performed, is service in the best sense. We see this clearly in some crisis moment, when faithfulness to a common task counts for much. A boy runs an elevator up and down the shaft in a great hotel day in and day out until he has grown to manhood. One morning the flames sweep in great sheets thru the building, and the elevator, in answer to the summoning bell, runs as usual until the blistering fire has rendered powerless the hands that held the rope, and another name is added to the roll of earth's martyrs. The faithfulness of the humdrum, uneventful days was just as really service as the faithfulness of the fatal hour.

There is constant opportunity of rendering service thru our words. "Words are cheap." Yea, but often "words are mighty." Speech may be as the sting of the asp or as the carol of the lark. It may fill the blood with venom or inspire the soul with cheer. Pure, kindly, heartening words, words of hope and faith, if our lips be often filled with these, we shall thereby serve.

"Never a word is said
But it trembles in the air,
And the truant voice has sped,
To vibrate everywhere;
And perhaps far off in eternal years
Its echo may break upon our ears."

The service of deed stands next to this. "Lend a hand" is a precept with which we have grown more or less familiar. Some people are always leaning. Others there are who are always lifting. To which class do you belong? Opportunities for "little deeds of kindness" are numberless. As we use them we serve. The cup of cold water is neither valueless nor despised. Opportunities for larger deeds are less frequently within our reach.

The true spirit of service is tested more strongly by the former.

There is also the service of character. We cannot all do, especially large deeds, telling deeds. We can all be. The chance for highest and most constant service lies here. What I am affects my fellow-man more than what I say, even more than what I do. "What you are sounds so loud, I cannot hear what you say," Emerson once wrote. The utterance of character drowns the utterance of speech and deed. It is articulate when our lips are silent, active when our hands are at rest. He serves best and most whose inmost being has been so touched and transformed by love for him who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister," that even its unconscious outgoings radiate purity, peace, hope, faith and love.

—Christian Advocate.

The Seed of Grace

If the seed of sin comes by our following the motions thereof, to have such complete power over us, why may not the seed of grace, if we return thereunto and become followers thereof, have as much power over us.

Undoubtedly John, the apostle, who had traveled from death unto life, and was an eye-witness of things as they were in the beginning, felt in himself such a power when he said "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remains in him and he cannot sin."

Many living witnesses may be found at this day, who can say from a sensible experience, that where this righteous seed is risen and comes to have dominion, it is so powerful and restraining, that they cannot be unjust in their dealings, nor unfaithful in their promises; they cannot be intemperate, wasting the good creatures that God hath given for our nourishment, by excessive eating and drinking; they cannot oppress the poor, the widow and the fatherless, nor take by violence that which they have no right unto. The small seed in them is become the tallest of herbs, and hath as much power over them, as sin hath over such who dwell therein.

—Hugh Turford.

As Oaks Grow

The builder idly picked up a piece of wood, as he stood chatting with a friend. He turned it over in his hands, and when a pause occurred in the conversation he said: "See what a beautiful bit of oak this is. Note the fineness of its grain. This wood will take a higher polish than a bit of ordinary oak. Can you guess why this is?" The builder's companion expressed himself as being altogether in the dark.

"Well, it is because the tree of which this bit of wood was once a part had to stand a good deal of buffeting. This tree did not grow in a forest, where it was sheltered by its neighbors. It stood apart in some field, solitary, and it gets delicate grain from the struggle with the elements which it had thru-out its life. It was blown upon from every side, and the story of its resistance is now written in its very fiber."

The man of affairs did not extend his philosophizing any further, tho a spiritual analogy was evidently in his mind. He was doubtless thinking of the characters which come to strength and beauty by way of hard buffetings. It is a universal law of life, with countless other illustrations besides the bit of oak wood, that thru contest comes might; thru trials, growth; thru tribulation, perfection.

—Exchange.

When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without heart.

—Bunyan.